Library Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes - Special Meeting on the Vote of No Confidence in the University Librarian
2005-05-11

Present:

Convened:
10:38 am in Hamilton Library Room 113, the meeting was called to order by Christensen (Chair).

1. Vote of No Confidence in the University Librarian.

Christensen briefed the Senate on the purpose of the meeting -- Senate vote on whether or not to conduct a vote of no confidence in the University Librarian; describe the ballot process; and discuss the no confidence statement.

Motion to Conduct a Vote of No Confidence: A motion was made and seconded to conduct a vote of no confidence in the University Librarian. The Senate proceeded to discuss the issue. Two issues were raised: [1] there was concern that there will be a perception by University administration that the vote will be seen as a reaction to the flood and that the Senate is judging her unfairly while she was having to deal with the unusual circumstances of the flood; and [2] a question about the relationship between the vote of no confidence and the Senate's evaluation of library administrators.

It was emphasized that the concerns regarding the University Librarian started long before the flood and that these concerns were serious enough that the Senate determined it was necessary to consider an evaluation process. This was formally determined at the August 10, 2004 full Senate meeting. It was pointed out that her behaviors during the flood were examples of a pattern of behaviors that started years ago.

It was discussed that any changes and improvement in the library will take a long time and that the Senate needs to be committed to following through with the process. It was also suggested that there may be a number of "votes of no confidence" and that there will be a number of evaluations of library administrators. These all document the progress, or lack of progress, by the University Librarian.

The motion to conduct a vote of no confidence in the University Librarian was approved -- 25 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Ballot Process: Christensen briefed the Senate on the ballot process. Senate members will receive a copy of the No Confidence Statement, a ballot, an outer envelop with a place to print and sign one's name, and a ballot envelope. A voter will
mark the ballot, place the ballot in the ballot envelope, place the ballot envelop in the outer envelope, and print and sign his/her name on the outer envelope. This will preserve the voting accountability, confidentiality, and anonymity. The Senate also approved absentee voting by email, where the absentee voter will send his/her vote to two members of the Elections Committee (to be determined by the Elections Committee) using one's hawaii.edu account. Absentee voters must agree and understand that their votes are confidential and anonymous only beyond the two Elections Committee members to which they submitted their votes. It was also agreed that the voting length will be two weeks. The voting period will be determined at the next meeting.

**Discussion of the No Confidence Statement:** Christensen introduced the draft of the No Confidence Statement prepared by the Library Senate Executive Board. The membership reviewed and edited the document paragraph by paragraph. A revised draft will be prepared for Senate approval at the next full Senate meeting on May 18, 2005.

**2. Additions to the Agenda**

**Campus-wide Task Force Concerning the Basement of Hamilton Library:** Senate members requested that the Library Senate send a letter to Chancellor Englert and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Smatresk inquiring as to the purpose and charge of the campus-wide task force concerning the basement of Hamilton Library. Such a task force could significantly delay the reconstruction of the basement and have a negative impact on all of the displaced faculty, staff, and operations. Many questioned the necessity of such a committee. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to have the Senate send a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Smatresk) with the content of Gwen Sinclair's outline of concerns and an invitation to meet with the Senate to discuss the issue.

**3. Next Meeting**

May 18, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

**4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Submitted by Theodore Kwok, Secretary

**LIBRARY SENATE**


Teruya, Alexis Weatherl, Jerard Yagi, Diane Perushek, Robert Schwarzwalder. (TOTAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: 22)